



OLD GUARD



4th BATTALION 3rd INFANTRY



Volume I, No. 17

January 8, 1970

The "Rice Bowl"--a fertile area six miles southeast of Duc Pho became the scene of heavy fighting when Bravo Company, 4-3 Old Guard, weathered an early morning attack by an NVA Company while in their Night Defensive Position.

Twenty-nine enemy soldiers were killed and numerous wounded as the main force reeled back from a barrage of Bravo Company counterfire. The first and second platoons were the primary defenders, blasting the sappers back into hiding with crippling losses.

The men "were long since dug in for the night when they received incoming mortar rounds at 2345," reported Sergeant First Class Michael Baxter (Tiffin, Ohio) who was monitoring the radio in Duc Pho.

Following the intense rocket propelled grenade and mortar attack the NVA hit the perimeter with an entire NVA Company, hitting from two sides of the perimeter. The first and second platoons received the brunt of the attack from the NVA who crept up within feet of the platoons' foxholes which were protected by concertina wire which separated them from the full-scale sapper attack. In the ensuing process of reaching the perimeter, the sappers had found the trip flares and put the safety in the fly-handles, while at the same time cutting the claymore wires to render them useless.

The first and second platoons were alerted to the attack by the explosion of Chi-Coms hitting near their foxhole positions. Private First Class Russell Pinard (Fall Rivers, Mass.) said, "some thought that mortars were coming in; it was Chi-Coms coming in fast." He commented that, "I could hear the plunk of many duds as (cont. on pg. 2, col. 1)

A turning point in the lives of three NVA unfolded in the early morning hours of December 30, when Delta Company was patrolling three klicks southeast of San Juan Hill.

Lieutenant James G. Allen (Springfield, Missouri) said, "Delta Company was on the move, walking parallel to a river and about one hundred meters from it." Between Delta Company and the river was a hedgerow and on the other side of it there was a trail running parallel to the hedgerow and the river. This trail was to play an important role.

The last element, the third platoon, spotted NVA about 35 meters to its flank as they were moving down the trail. One NVA stood up when he heard RTO Rodney Jones talking on the radio and was spotted in turn by the RTO. The third platoon immediately opened up on the NVA, wounding one. The NVA thinking they had run into the lead element, made a turn and tried to escape. In order to expedite their escape they followed the trail that ran parallel to the trail Delta Company was following, not knowing that they were heading directly into the awaiting guns of the first platoon. In their attempt to escape they simply succeeded in running the entire length of the column. "Apparently they mistook them for the lead element," says Lieutenant James Allen. Having run about 150 meters from where they were first sighted, to their dismay, the NVA found that they had, indeed, met with the lead element this time an encounter which was to be their last.

While the third platoon was engaging the enemy, the first platoon had held up to await further developments. Cautious minutes later, SF4 Philip (continued on page 2, column 2)

(cont. from pg. 1, col 1) they hit harmlessly behind me and to the front." Private First Class Thomas G. Carfaro (S.I., N.Y.) said, "one blast woke me up, another hit and another. I was blinded by the flash and closeness of the explosion." In the ensuing battle Bravo Company was able to effectively ward off the ground attack that was concentrated against three foxholes in the first platoon's sector of the perimeter. The foxholes were assaulted with Chi-Com wielding NVA sappers supported by heavy automatic weapons fire. The NVA used a large bomb crater to the side of the perimeter as a fighting position; but all to no avail as seven NVA were found dead the next morning.

Meanwhile, in another sector of the perimeter Specialist Four Gerald Staats (Dayton, Ohio) machinegunner for the second platoon, personally killed three NVA who were moving toward a nearby hole, pinning the men down. Staats got up, held the machinegun to his shoulder and killed all three. Staats was also credited with having killed five other NVA who were found a mere four feet from the foxhole.

During the fray Sergeant DePaola (Hillsdale, New Jersey) repeatedly crossed and criss-crossed the perimeter, as hot metal and lead whizzed overhead, to administer much needed attention to the wounded. He also found time to carry much (cont. on pg. 3, col. 2)

(TURNING POINT - continued from page 1, column 2) Bigham (Rushville, Ohio) turned to SP4 Steve Kramer (Monticello, Iowa) and nonchalantly asked, "is the third platoon moving toward us?" Steve Kramer said no. Having received that answer, seconds later, he immediately opened fire to his left. It seems that several NVA emerged from the adjoining trail seconds after he asked the question. They were a mere five meters away and armed and could have caused considerable damage if it were not for Bigham's instantaneous reaction.

Lieutenant James Allen later commented that it was a, "matter of making the wrong turn."

The platoon hauled in two AK-47's and killed three NVA and wounded one.



DID YOU KNOW?

TOUR EXTENSION EFFECT ON CLASS "S" ALLOTMENTS: Class "S" Allotments for deposits in the Uniformed Services Savings Deposit Program (Soldier's Deposits) have an automatic discontinuance date as of the month prior to DEROS month. Members who extend their tour and have Class "S" Allotments in effect should take action to extend the continuance of their allotments through the month prior to the adjusted DEROS date if they desire that allotment deposits continue. Action can be accomplished by signing a revised DA Form 1341 (Allotment Authorization) at the finance section. Proof of adjusted DEROS will be required.

NEW RATION CARDS:

M&C V Forms 333 and 334 (blue) ration cards will be issued during the period 1-31 January 1970. The new cards will be issued to all personnel holding salmon or buff-colored cards. Those holding blue cards are exempt. The old cards (salmon or buff) will be invalid on 1 Feb 70.

BATTALION SUMMARY

Action in the AO increased greatly over the past week. The 4-3 was credited with 32 NVA/VC killed, 12 AK-47s, one 9mm pistol, one RPG-2, one automatic rifle and 70-75 Chi-Com grenades captured.

28 December

While on patrol in an area two klicks northeast of San Juan Hill the SRRPs (2nd squad) observed four NVA/VC approximately 35 meters away. They were carrying packs and weapons.

29 December

At 1245 hours, while on patrol eight klicks northeast of San Juan, Bravo Company observed five NVA/VC in the open. The NVA were engaged by M-60 and 81mm mortar fire from the company and 105's from the 6/11 Artillery.

At 2030 hours, a trip flare was ignited in front of bunker six. Charlie Company immediately opened up with small arms fire and was supported by the Quad 50 crew and 81's. Bunker four also reported possible movement to its front.

Minutes later, a trip flare was ignited in front of bunker 21. The bunker received 3-5 rounds of small arms fire and possibly Chi-Com grenades.

30 December

While on patrol four klicks southeast of San Juan, Delta Company engaged five NVA/VC. In their flight the NVA left behind five packs, containing 120 pounds of rice, four NVA canteens, hammocks, medical bandages, uniforms and ponchos.

At 1220 hours, Bravo Company's 2nd platoon spotted three VC/NVA approximately 250 meters west of their position. The platoon engaged them at 50 meters. Both of the NVA carried AK-47s and one was wounded in the fray.

While on patrol three klicks southwest of San Juan Hill, Alpha Company spotted five NVA/VC and one water buffalo. Artillery was called in from San Juan which resulted in one NVA killed.

From bunker ten, Charlie Company sighted two NVA/VC about one klick southeast of San Juan Hill. They were immediately engaged with 4.2 Mortar.

1 January

In the early afternoon, a Warlord received heavy small arms fire from an area two klicks southeast of LZ Jeff.

While in its NDP seven klicks southeast of San Juan Hill, Charlie Company spotted one of its trip flares ignite in an old patrol base 150 meters to the south. The Company quickly peppered the area with M-79s and 81mm mortar.

2 January

Bravo Company was in its NDP located nine klicks southeast of LZ Bronco when the men sustained a (cont. on adjacent column)

(cont. from pg. 2, col. 1) needed ammunition off of the Chopper Pad for distribution to the men under fire. On several occasions he gave mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to those who had become causalities.

Private First Class Thomas Hobbs (Pleasant Hill, Ill.) said, "they hit us hard and the attack lasted about two hours. We had good air support from the 'Sharks' and d--- fine fire support from artillery at FSB Bronco, I've heard Debbie sent us 400 illumination rounds."

After the attack was repulsed, the soldiers found twenty-nine bodies strewn about the area, six of which died in the wire. In all they captured ten AK-47s, one 9mm pistol, one RPG-2 with two rounds, one automatic rifle, 70-75 Chi-Com grenades, 13 AK-47 magazines and one compass. Among those found was an NVA officer who was wearing the 9mm pistol.

Standown schedule for February is as follows:

<u>Company</u>	<u>Date</u>
----------------	-------------

Delta	1-4
Alpha	4-7
Bravo	7-10
Charlie	10-13
Echo	13-16

(Cont. from adjacent col) Vicious early morning attack. Twenty-nine NVA were killed and numerous wounded as the main force reeled back from a barrage of Bravo Company counterfire. Bravo Company captured ten AK-47s, one 9mm pistol, one RPG-2 with two rounds, one automatic rifle, 70-75 Chi-Com grenades, 13 AK-47 magazines and one compass. (cont. pg. 6 col. 2)

THE ENEMY WE FACE



WHY DOES HE FIGHT?

The enemy has a number of reasons for fighting. Some honestly believe the Communist propaganda which they hear every day from their unit political officer. Some may have personal reasons. The NVA regular frequently serves primarily because it is considered social disgrace to refuse to bear arms. In North Vietnam "draft dodging" is cause for a severe loss of "face," and many captured NVA say that this factor was even more important than the threat of reprisals against themselves or their families.

The Viet Cong is more affected by these threats, and serves out of fear. Viet Cong Officers and NCOs have been (Continued on adjacent column)

known to summarily execute those who did not "stay in line."

Morale is a constant problem for the enemy. He is often quite far from home, poorly equipped and supplied, outnumbered by Free World Forces, and in a constant fear of Allied air strikes. Although his political officers constantly assures him that a Communist victory is inevitable and that he will soon return home, he learns otherwise.

Numerous defeats and staggering casualties add to the problem. The enemy knows that if he is wounded he may have to wait for agonizing hours before he receives medical treatment for his wounds--if he receives any treatment at all. (cont. on pg. 5 top of col. 1)

Vietnamese Campaign Ribbons

(The Enemy We Face cont. from pg. 4 col. 2)

He is also constantly on the move to avoid Allied forces. And he has to go out and search for food. He writes letters home, but they seldom reach North Vietnam. Even less often does he receive mail because of harrassment by Allied air strikes. And his pay, if he receives it at all, is pitifully small.

To try to combat these morale problems, his superiors rely heavily on political indoctrination sessions. The enemy soldier is constantly reminded of his mission, and the reasons for it. Unit indoctrination sessions, conducted daily, include self-criticism, during which each man is told what his future actions must be. Then he must explain his reactions and publicly confess his shortcomings.

After every fight there is an almost immediate critique, with no holds barred. This gives every man a chance to let off steam, and at the same time lets superiors know what their men are thinking.

Discipline and courtesy are maintained in much the same manner as in other military organizations, with minor punishments for minor offenses. After every battle, too, there is always an awards ceremony which gives recognition to outstanding soldiers.

STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

The enemy's strengths stem largely from effective unconventional tactics, discipline and intimate knowledge of the terrain. Masters at living off the land, the enemy is able to hide among people, in the jungle or in the rural landscape. His ability to withstand hardships and his patient attitude toward life are also assets.

A major weakness is that he is losing increasing numbers of skilled and dedicated soldiers, and replacements are hard to find. Another weakness is that many of the rank and file soldiers are essentially captives recruited and involuntarily held in the armed forces.

A formidable enemy who must not be underestimated, the Communist soldier is becoming increasingly hard-pressed and desperate in his war in the South. How long he will remain as an effective fighting force is anybody's guess.

The 1968 Green Book listed the names of these campaigns and their terminal dates:

• Vietnam Advisory Campaign: 15 March 1962 to 7 March 1965.

• Vietnam Defense Campaign: 8 March 1965 to 24 December 1965.

• Vietnam Counteroffensive: 25 December 1965 to 30 June 1966.

• Vietnam Counteroffensive, Phase II: 1 July 1966 to 31 May 1967.

• Vietnam Counteroffensive, Phase III: 1 June 1967 to 29 January 1968.

• Tet Counteroffensive: 30 January 1968 to 1 April 1968.

The names and dates of two more campaigns have been published:

• Vietnam Counteroffensive, Phase IV: 2 April 1968 to 30 June 1968.

• Vietnam Counteroffensive, Phase V: 1 July 1968 to 1 November 1968.

A ninth campaign has been designated, commencing 2 November 1968. Its name and termination date have yet to be announced.

Units that served in Vietnam within the terminal dates of a campaign (date is inclusive) are authorized to add that streamer to their colors under rules set forth in Army regulations. Confirmation of the right to add the streamer will be published in general orders by the Department of the Army.

Any member of the Army who is serving or who has served in Vietnam and contiguous waters or air space, in accordance with AFM 672-5-1, is authorized to wear a battle star on the Vietnam service ribbon for duty in Vietnam during the periods designated.

OLD GUARD

LTC Stanley V. Wielga
CPT. Felix J. Ciarlo Jr.
SP4 Robert Daniels

CO
S1

REPORTER

This newsheet is published weekly under the supervision of S1, 4-3 Infantry, Americal Division APO 96217, as an authorized publication. Views and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily represent those of the Department of the Army. AFPS, ANF and command information material used.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Answer to Previous Puzzle

ACROSS

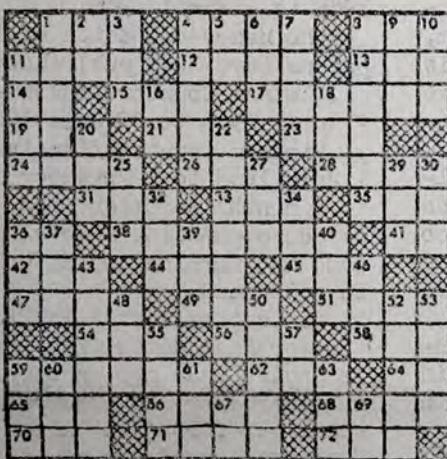
- 1-Footlike part
- 4-Ache
- 8-Emerged
victorious
- 11-Separate
- 12-Sicilian volcano
- 13-Anger
- 14-Chinese mille
- 15-Still
- 17-Murdered
- 19-Skill
- 21-Hit lightly
- 23-Conducted
- 24-River in Belgium
- 26-Once around
track
- 28-Gull-like bird
- 31-Short sleep
- 33-Gratuity
- 35-Beam
- 36-Symbol for
silver
- 38-Experts
- 41-Earth goddess
- 42-Ordinance
- 44-Cravat
- 45-Affirmative
- 47-Unculy child
- 49-In favor of
- 51-Direction
- 54-Recent
- 56-Pinch
- 58-Pedal digit
- 59-More mournful
- 62-Brim
- 64-Parent (colloq.)
- 65-Hesiter
- 66-Part of
face
- 68-God of
love
- 70-Be mistaken
- 71-Care for
- 72-Sailor
(colloq.)

DOWN

- 1-Couples
- 2-Teutonic deity
- 3-Pigpen

GRANGE	AVAST	
TROPS	GAITER	
MAY	TOTE	LIRA
ITS	NEWBERRY	NET
NETS	RAVENS	ING
GRINS	FETIMES	
LETTERS	SHRIDE	
STEERED	GERIE	
TO	ROTAS	TRIMS
AMP	PASTE	TAT
GALAN	HERA	GO
ETAMIN	ASLEEP	
OTTER	MELTS	

25



Distr. by United Feature Syndicate, Inc. 25
For Use in Authorized Service Newspapers Only.

COMMUNIST BLOCK WEAPONS:

SOVIET 9mm PISTOL MAKAROV

The 9mm semiautomatic Makarov closely resembles the German Walther PPK pistol. Like other weapons of this type, it has a double action trigger (i.e. one continuous pull locks and fires the weapon).

The safety is located at the left rear of the slide. This pistol is small and light and it is normally used by staff officers. This weapon cannot fire the 9mm Parabellum ammunition.

CHARACTERISTICS

Caliber-----9mm
 Ammunition-----Soviet 9mm
 pistol cartridge
 Operation-----Blowback,
 semiautomatic
 Magazine type-----Removable
 box, 8 rounds
 Overall length----6.34 inches
 Barrel length----3.6 inches
 Weight with
 magazine-----1.7 pounds
 Muzzle velocity---1,034 ft/sec
 Effective range---50 meters

(Battalion Summary cont. from pg. 3, bottom of col. 2)

3 January

San Juan Hill was the scene of some excitement when bunker 3 spotted a silver object in the wire at approximately 2100 hours. While deciding what to do about it, the object was detonated by sappers. The next morning sapper gloves were found in the wire. There was also activity between bunkers 16 and 17 during the night. A sweep of the perimeter discovered that the concertina wire had been dug under to allow entrance into the perimeter. Five trip flares were also cut.

